

REMARKS

In the Office action dated June 28, 2004, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by French Patent No. 2,512,775 and/or Foster et al. (Patent No. 5,967,462). The claims were rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double-patenting of claims 1-29 in U.S. Patent 6,644,595. Applicants have amended the claims in response to the Office action. Applicants have also submitted a Terminal Disclaimer in response to the double-patenting rejection. Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants have amended claim 2 to include a period at the end. Accordingly, all of the claims comply fully with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 4 has been cancelled. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to recite that the tube member is "substantially rigid". Support for this amendment can be found on page 5, line 15 in the specification. As shown in Figure 1 of the French patent, cable or tube 3 appears to be curved and flexible. This device would operate quite different from the claimed invention because the submerged water collection device would travel more independently from the aircraft, and would also be more cumbersome to deploy.

Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Please contact applicants' attorney if there are any additional issues to address.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

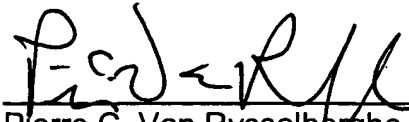
Respectfully submitted,

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450 on October 28, 2004.


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Date of Signature: October 28, 2004

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